

GOAL FIVE

Develop and administer security policies to sustain the stability and integrity of the educational technology systems.



STRATEGIES

- Implement statewide virus protection in every K-12 school connected to STAGEnet to ensure the stability of the shared infrastructure.
- Ongoing strategies.

As our educational system becomes more dependent on technology, the reliability and integrity of the information systems and the underlying network are essential. These assets must be protected by implementing measures for the secure transmission, storage and processing of information.

Implementing virus protection in every K-12 school connected to STAGEnet is a first step in protecting critical systems. The number of computers protected through the statewide anti-virus contract must be increased. EduTech will budget for the contract and maintain the required hardware and software to provide this service on a statewide basis. Schools not participating in the anti-virus plan administered by EduTech will certify to EduTech that they have their own virus protection plan that meets EduTech standards.

Security awareness training for school leaders and others will be considered as a way to promote best practices for protecting information systems. We must continue to educate and disseminate up-to-date information to leaders who can evaluate the effectiveness of current protection measures and make necessary improvements.

The North Dakota Education Telecommunication Council (ETC) will continue to update its policies and practices in order to ensure technology systems are reliable for K-12 mission-critical functions. EduTech will continue to work with the North Dakota Information Technology Department (ITD) on issues of risk management and security of network-based resources made available to schools. EduTech will continue to support statewide Internet filtering for K-12 schools to ensure Children's Internet Protection Act compliance for local and state E-rate applications and to ensure the filtering system meets the needs of K-12 educators and students. Because Internet filtering is required by most federal programs and is also an important instructional management tool for schools, a statewide Internet filtering system will continue to be maintained as part of each school's connectivity to STAGEnet. EduTech will continue to manage the filtering system for all schools statewide. Help desk services will continue to be coordinated with ITD and the North Dakota Interactive Video Network (IVN) in order to ensure seamless coverage across the variety of technology systems now in place.

"To date, over 25,000 computers are protected by the anti-virus software plan managed by EduTech."

